

REMARKS

The present response is in reply to the office action rejection dated January 3, 2006.

Claims 1 through 31 were pending in the application with claims 29 through 31 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 19 through 22 are allowed, claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-16, and 23-28 are rejected, and claims 4, 12-13, and 17-18 are objected to. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 4 which was previously objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-3, and 5-13 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 14 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 6,266,511 (hereinafter Murakami) and US Patent Number 5,132,740 (hereinafter Okamoto). Claim 14 has been amended to now include the toner chute includes first and second inlets with a cartridge mounted to the first inlet. An actuator moves the port door of a cartridge to an open position to allow toner to move through the inlet. The actuator is also operatively connected to a second chute door at the second inlet to move the chute door across the second inlet and prevent toner from moving through the second inlet. Each of Murakami and Okamoto disclose a single inlet being positioned within the toner chute and therefore neither discusses controlling a second inlet. Therefore, independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 has been amended to further include a second toner inlet in the waste toner chute. The steps of this method now include moving a cover to an open position and opening the inlet and the second inlet in the waste toner chute, mounting the cartridge to the inlet, and moving a chute door across the second inlet by moving the cover to a closed position. Again, neither Murakami nor Okamoto disclose controlling more than one inlet within the toner chute.

Therefore, independent claim 23 and dependent claims 24-28 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kalish', written over a horizontal line.

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